

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: UN ADMINISTRATION - USE OF SPACE IN VIENNA DONAUPARK
COMPLEX

REF: STATE 180594

1. IN CALL ON USYG DAVIDSON AUGUST 4, HE TOLD US HE PLANS TO INITIATE FORMAL CONSULTATIONS SOON WITH USG ON QUESTION OF UTILIZATION BY UN OF VIENNA DONAUPARK COMPLEX. ON RECENT EUROPEAN TRIP HE CONSULTED EXTENSIVELY WITH SWISS AND AUSTRIANS AND BELIEVES HE PACIFIED BOTH. HE SAID SWISS HAVE BEEN LOBBYING HEAVILY ON THIS SUBJECT IN ALL QUARTERS AND AUSTRIANS HAVE SOME CATCHING UP TO DO.

2. DAVIDSON VIEWED SITUATION AS FOLLOWS: THERE WILL BE ROOM FOR 4700 UN STAFF IN VIENNA. EXISTING VIENNA BODIES (UNIDO, IAEA, ETC.) WILL TAKE UP 2700 OF THESE SPACES, BUT UNDER NORMAL GROWTH CONDITIONS CAN BE EXPECTED TO USE 1000 MORE WITHIN A FEW YEARS. THIS LEAVES SPACE FOR 1000 TO BE FILLED BY RELOCATION OF NEW YORK OR GENEVA SECRETARIAT UNITS OR BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW UNITS, OF WHICH 500 ARE EXPECTED TO BE PROFESSIONAL AND 500 GENERAL SERVICE STAFF. ASSUMING THEY ARE ALL TRANSFERS, THEY WOULD PROBABLY GO TO VIENNA ONLY GRADUALLY, PERHAPS

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AT THE RATE OF 50 PROFESSIONALS EACH FROM NEW YORK

AND GENEVA A YEAR FOR FIVE YEARS. ON THIS BASIS DAVIDSON FELT GENEVA HAD NOTHING TO BE ALARMED ABOUT AND HE BELIEVES HE CONVINCED SWISS AUTHORITIES IN BERN THAT ANY LOSS IN GENEVA WOULD NOT EXCEED NORMAL GENEVA GROWTH RATE. AS FOR NEW YORK, SOME MODEST MOVE WOULD BE IN ORDER IN ANY CASE. NEW YORK HAS REACHED THE LIMIT OF ITS CAPACITY, AND THE UN CAN NEITHER BUY NOR RENT NEW FACILITIES HERE.

3. DAVIDSON SAID EVIDENCE IS CLEAR THAT IT WILL BE MUCH LESS COSTLY TO OPERATE ANY UN UNIT IN VIENNA THAN GENEVA; TRANSFER COSTS ARE ABSORBED BY SAVINGS AFTER ONE YEAR AND FROM THEN ON SAVINGS ARE ENORMOUS. DIFFERENCE IS NEGLIGIBLE BETWEEN NEW YORK AND VIENNA.

4. DAVIDSON SAID HE WOULD PREFER FOR SYG REPORT ON VIENNA TO MAKE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS OF UNITS TO MAKE THE MOVE, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT REPORT MAY END UP CONSISTING MERELY OF GENERAL GUIDELINES WITH DECISION BEING LEFT TO UNGA. HE ADDED THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD SUGGEST MOVING TO VIENNA THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND POSSIBLY THE UN RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (UNRISD). HE ALSO NOTED THAT SYG COREA WAS NO LONGER AVERSE TO MOVING SUBSTANTIVE UNCTAD STAFF FROM NEW YORK TO GENEVA, AND THAT THE CENTER FOR HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING AND THE OFFICE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, BOTH IN ESA, MIGHT ALSO BE CANDIDATES FOR A MOVE TO VIENNA. DEPENDING ON INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PART MIGHT GO TO VIENNA, PARTICULARLY THE HABITAT FOUNDATION.

5. DAVIDSON ALSO REFERRED TO THE POSSIBLE MOVE OF CCD FROM GENEVA TO VIENNA, TO WHICH THE AUSTRIANS ATTACH SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE, BUT EMPHASIZED UN SECRETARIAT POSITION ON THIS TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON CCD DECISION ITSELF. IF CCD SHOULD MOVE, THE UN DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS DIVISION WOULD PUT LIAISON OFFICERS IN VIENNA BUT WOULD REMAIN IN NEW YORK (USYG SHEVCHENKO WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO MOVE OF DIVISION TO VIENNA.)

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6. DAVIDSON AGREED WITH US THAT IF THE SYG FAILS TO MAKE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHAT SECRETARIAT UNITS MIGHT BE MOVED TO VIENNA, DOOR WILL BE LEFT WIDE OPEN FOR LDC'S, IF THEY WISH, TO ADVANCE ALL SORTS OF SCHEMES FOR DISPERSING UN OFFICES AROUND THE WORLD FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT FACT SO MUCH UNUSED FREE SPACE EXISTS IN VIENNA IS SOME PROTECTION AGAINST THAT DANGER. WHEN WE SUGGESTED DESIRABILITY OF US, AUSTRIA, AND

SWITZERLAND COMING TO SOME AGREEMENT BEFORE SYG FINALIZES AND ISSUES HIS REPORT, DAVIDSON WHOLEHEARTEDLY AGREED. WE POINTED OUT THAT OUR POSITION IS TO ACCEPT WHATEVER THE SYG RECOMMENDS BUT NOTHING PRECLUDED US FROM ENGAGING IN TALKS WITH THE AUSTRIANS AND SWISS TO SEE IF A TRIPARTITE MEETING OF THE MINDS COULD BE REACHED.

7. FOLLOWING DAVIDSON DISCUSSION, STOTTLEMYER LUNCHEDED WITH SWISS PERMANENT OBSERVER, AMBASSADOR MARCUARD, AT LATTER'S REQUEST TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON SUBJECT. MARCUARD WAS PROVIDED WITH SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSION WITH DAVIDSON WHICH COINCIDED WITH INFORMATION LATTER PREVIOUSLY HAD PROVIDED TO SWISS. MARCUARD SUGGESTED THAT HE SET UP MEETING EARLY NEXT WEEK BETWEEN HIMSELF, AUSTRIAN CHARGE STRASSER, AND STOTTLEMYER TO EXCHANGE VIEWS IN HOPE OF REACHING TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT AS BASIS FOR EARLY FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH DAVIDSON AND LATER WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS. BENNETT

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